and training in biotechnology in India under the auspices of UNESCO was approved by the General Conference, UNESCO in October, 2005. The formal agreement would be entered between the host country and UNESCO for setting up of the Centre. The Governing Body of the Centre would deliberate on the issues related to IPR/patent, P.G. courses, etc.

Setting up of Bio-IT Park

229. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are looking for a suitable location for the proposed world's first Bio-IT Park project being promoted jointly by M/s ITCO and Department of Bio-Technology;

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of considering Hyderabad as a suitable location for this prestigious world's first Bio-IT Park in view of Hyderabad already housing the best IT companies such as Microsoft, Oracle, Satyam, Wipro, Infosys and GE and leading world's research institutes such as International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and Hyderabad being the Pharma Capital of India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a Bio-IT park promoted jointly by M/s. ITCO and Department of Biotechnology.

(b) and (c) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have designed a project for Bio-IT Park to be set up in the form of a Public-Private partnership. The selected private promoter would decide the location of the Bio-IT Park from a short list of six locations viz National Capital Region (NCR), Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai.